nomfusi

"HER VOICE IS BIGGER THAN MINE, BUT SHE‘S SMALLER THAN MY TRUMPET. THE LAST TIME WE INVITED HER SHE STOLE THE SHOW FROM US.”

Hugh Masekela

EPK 2024

Rolling Stone DRUM GLAMOUR
COSMOPOLITAN DESTINY

NOMFUSI

THE POWER VOCALIST FROM SOUTH AFRICA
Reviving the Spirit of Township Music, Soul, and Afropop.

The essence of Mama Africa meets the spirit of Motown and Soul music in a pint-sized package of a striking, gigantic voice, tons of charm, and sheer will and determination. Nomfusi has risen from the extreme hardship of life in South African squatter camps to become a resilient force within the global entertainment industry.

She is gearing up for the upcoming season with an exciting new live program and a remarkable album that reflects both her musical roots and intense passion for reviving the spirit and soul of “Township sounds.”

"A REFRESHING BLAST OF ENERGY"

WOMAD, England

BIO & LIFE

Nomfusi's life story was described by Rolling Stone South Africa as "the sort of story Hollywood is bound to snap up."

She was born in the township of KwaZakhele in the Eastern Cape and raised by her single mother named Kwazibani (which means “Who Knows?” in Xhosa) while her father was serving a 21-year prison sentence.

A domestic worker by day, Kwazibani was a “Sangoma” or “African medicine woman” with a natural gift for music. Nomfusi would accompany her mother to weekly Sangoma rituals known as “Intlombe,” where she soon developed a love for performing and crafted her artistic identity by dancing and singing for hours.

Tragically in 1998, Nomfusi was suddenly orphaned at age twelve when she lost her mother to HIV / AIDS. Nomfusi’s aunt took her and her siblings in, but sadly also succumbed to the same deadly disease three years later. Undeterred by the hand she was dealt at such a young age, Nomfusi turned her situation around to become one of South Africa's brightest, most recognizable stars.

Never one for self-pity, Nomfusi strives to inspire others with her worldview that “life is about choices” and that "one has to overcome the poverty of the mind first.” Her compassion has led her to doing outreach work at schools for at-risk youth in Soweto, Swaziland, and Malawi, and creating opportunities she didn’t have for the next generation. Additionally, she recently became an ambassador for MES, a Hillbrow-based NPO that helps homeless individuals get back on their feet and reintegrate into society.

Nomfusi is as much a homegrown woman as she is a woman of the world. She cares deeply for her community and philanthropic endeavors, while simultaneously embracing the glamour and publicity that comes with mainstream music success. She has the distinction of being invited three times as an industry panelist at the annual symposium for “AFRIKADEY Festival” in Calgary, Canada — discussing the role of women and the arts in Africa.

As she sings in her anthem against poverty, “Nontsokolo" — **“Remember your sister, your brother, your mother and your neighbour. Don't leave them behind. Go back and make a difference.”**

Today, Nomfusi is married with two beautiful children and is living in Johannesburg. She remains hard at work on future music projects and partnerships, and the best is yet to come.

CAREER & MUSIC

Not one to just stand behind a microphone and sing, the self-taught vocalist and songwriter has become well known for her explosive stage performances all over the world. Nomfusi's music is a beautiful, fearless mix of genres — from joyful Township sounds punctuated by percussive Maskandi guitars, to Afropop, Afro-soul, and soulful Ballads touched by Gospel. All of these elements combine to cement Nofusi's worldwide appeal.

Growing up in the squatter camps of South Africa in the 90's, Nomfusi was exposed to both traditional XHOSA sounds, and the contemporary American Soul music played widely on prominent South African radio stations. In fact, music is the core of every township. It is an essential part of everyday life, from happiness to struggle, that keeps the people going.

Through the power of music, Nomfusi tells evocative stories as seen through the eyes of a township girl growing up in her mother's house — stories from inside a tiny shack that she wants to share with the world. While the Townships are widely associated with poverty and crime — reflecting times of race wars and South African Apartheid laws — there are all kinds of stories to be found and cultivated for musical inspiration.

Transforming into a pint-sized packet of dynamite the moment she picks up a microphone, Nomfusi has given riveting performances across Europe and Canada. She has appeared at prestigious festivals like WOMAD UK, Canada's AFRIKADEY Festival (performing with Angelique Kidjo), and played to audiences of more than 8,000 at FMM SINES in Portugal and LUGANO JAZZ Festival in Switzerland. She also had the honor of opening for super star Lionel Richie at STIMMEN FESTIVAL in Germany, and starring with Hugh Masekela for South Africa's "Liberation Day" celebration at the renowned BOZAR Concert Hall in Brussels.

In perhaps the most defining moment of her career, Nomfusi was chosen to portray the character of Miriam Makeba in the highly-anticipated 2014 film, "Long Walk To Freedom," about the life of Nelson Mandela. According to the Hollywood Reporter, "it is the largest South African production ever mounted." The SAMA nominated singer, who is based in Johannesburg, was counted among the top ten rising stars on South Africa's ETV Showbiz Report.

Nomfusi's life story has been captured widely in the media. She has been featured in more than fifty international publications, including Drum (who gave her debut album 5 stars), Rolling Stone, Cosmopolitan, Glamour, and Destiny. She has also appeared on the cover of High Flyers, Mango Juice, and The Sowetan newspaper.

Chris Blackwell, the founder of Island Records, who discovered Bob Marley, Angelique Kidjo and U2, said of Nomfusi after viewing a touching documentary on her life and music: "What a terrific young artist — her genuine concern for her community and beyond comes through SO strongly."

"What a terrific young artist, her genuine concern for her community and beyond comes through SO strongly."

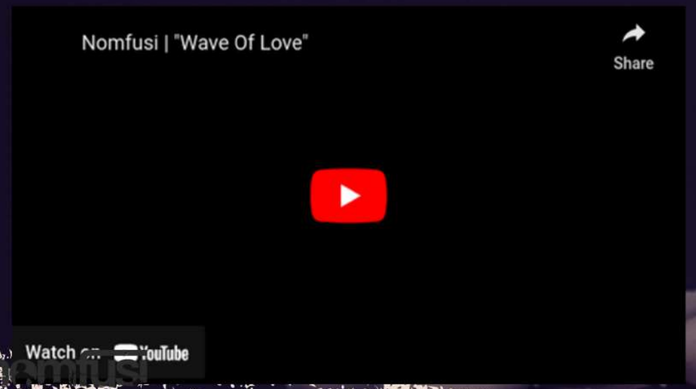
Watch what Nomfusi has to say!

AN ABSOLUTE RIOT TO WATCH AND HEAR

Roots 'n Blues Festival, Canada Blues Festival, Canada

- 20 Years of Democracy of South Africa — Honor concert in Brussels together with Hugh Masekela.
- Starring as Miriam Makeba in the 2014 film "Long Walk to Freedom."
- Opening act for Lionel Richie at the 2015 Stimmen Festival in Germany.
- Nomination for "Best Music Video" for "Nontsokolo" at The 17th South African Music Awards (SAMA).
- Featured in Rolling Stone South Africa.
- Feature with Leee John ("Imagination") on "African Day" album.
- SAMA and METRO FM nominations for "Take Me Home" album.
- Over 30 international tours with SOLD OUT shows in Brussels, Helsinki, and more...
- Shared stages with Angelique Kidjo, Dorothy Masuka, Sibongile Khumalo, Lionel Richie, and Hugh Masekela.
- Several TV features in South Africa: SABC 1, Espresso, and ETV Showbiz Report.

LIVE SHOWS



"ONLY A FEW ARTISTS HAVE THE ABILTIY TO WOW AN AUDIENCE AS MUCH BEFORE LIONEL RICHIE AS NOMFUSI DID"

Markus Muffler Stimmen Festival

DISCOGRAPHY

ALBUMS

2021 The Red Stoep
2017 African Day
2012 Take Me Home
2009 Kwazibani

SINGLES

2021 Iqaqa
2020 Ngenene
2020 The Hymn
2019 Intlungu Yam
2018 Buyisa ft. Berita
2016 You Are
2016 Heat

LISTEN !

nomfusi

THE RED STOEP - 2021

With THE RED STOEP Nomfusi returns to her South African roots and presents a mature side of her musical journey.

SAMA NOMINATED BEST CONTEMPORARY ADULT ALBUM 2022

Driven by the deep desire to tell her personal township story of growing up in her mother's tiny shack in KwaZakhele, the album takes listeners on a walk through her childhood memories — everyday stories of township life influenced by her mother's spirituality as a "Sangoma" (a traditional healer), and the harsh reality of single-motherhood in the Eastern Cape province.

Social injustices and gender-based violence against women are important issues for Nomfusi, and she explores them in stark detail on songs like "Nomanhamle." Through her musical activism, Nomfusi aims to raise global awareness for better protection of vulnerable populations.

Musically, the album speaks through melodic Maskandi guitars combined with big brass arrangements and groovy South African township rhythms. The colorful array of genres on the album include soulful ballads with a hint of gospel, and several jazzy, danceable Afropop songs.

The album's title alludes to the patio-like steps in front of Nomfusi's mother's shack; a place where one could sit down in the warm sun, have casual talks with friends and neighbours, and observe the vibrant life of the township. The "red stoep" stands for a "welcoming entrance."

With "The Red Stoep" Nomfusi invites everyone to experience the stories of her African heritage through the music.

NEW ALBUM COMING IN 2025

STAGES

TREIBHAUS INNSBRUCK AUSTRIA - MOODS ZURICH SWITZERLAND - MUFFATWERK MUNICH GERMANY - FABRIK HAMBURG GERMANY - JAZZ CLUB MUENSTER GERMANY - WINNIES JAZZ CLUB JOHANNESBURG SOUTH AFRICA, HABERKASTEN MÜHLDORF GERMANY JAZZCLUB WIESN AUSTRIA, PAVILLON HANNOVER GERMANY , LUCERNA MUSIC BAR PRAGUE CZE, JAZZHAUS FREIBURG GERMANY AND MANY MORE ...

"THIS TINY SUNSHINE MADE 1000 PEOPLE DANCE IN THE RAIN"

Oldenburger News

AFRIKADEY CANADA - ROOTS'N'BLUES FESTIVAL CANADA - AFRIKA FESTIVAL GERMANY - DUNYA FESTIVAL ROTTERDAM THE NETHERLANDS- AFRO LATINO FESTIVAL BELGIUM - WOMAD FESTIVAL UNITED KINGDOM - FMM SINES PORTUGAL - MUSIC FOR GOALS MUNICH GERMANY - CAPE TOWN JAZZ FESTIVAL SOUTH AFRICA - LAKE OF STARS MALAWI - MZANSI LOVES SOUL MUSIC JOHANNESBURG SOUTH AFRICA, WINNIPEG JAZZ FESTIVAL SOUTH AFRICA - TRIBUTE TO BRENDA FASSIE CAPE TOWN SOUTH AFRICA - FIFA FAN PARKS, JOHANNESBURG CITY CELEBRATIONS 2011 SOUTH AFRICA - BARDENTREFFEN NÜRNBERG GERMANY - LUGANO JAZZ FESTIVAL ITALY - AFRIKA FESTIVAL EMMENDINGEN GERMANY- SOMMERPALAST MURRHARDT GERMANY - MASCHSEEFEST HANNOVER GERMANY- STIMMEN FESTIVAL LOERRACH GERMANY - COLOURS OF OSTRAVA CZE - HELSINKI FESTIVAL FINLAND - ST. OLAVSON FESTIVAL NORWAY- TIMITAR FESTIVAL MOROCCO - AFRO PFINGSTEN WINTERTHUR SWITZERLAND - BUSHFIRE FESTIVAL SWAZILAND - SA, FESTIM PORTUGAL - RHEINGAU MUSIKFESTIVAL GERMANY - AFRIKA FESTIVAL GRAZ AUSTRIA - MEYOUZIK LUXEMBOURG - LUX FESTIVAL LUXEMBOURG - JAZZFRÜHLING NEUBRANDENBURG GERMANY - MIKRO FESTIVAL DÜSSELDORF GERMANY AND MANY MORE ...

& HAPPY PROMOTERS

nomfusi

GET IN TOUCH!

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MANAGEMENT & BOOKING

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Downloads

"THE BEST ARTIST IN THE OVERALL LINEUP"

Swazi Observer, Bushfire Festival